(c) if so, the number of sugar mills proposed to be set up in Orissa during Eighth and Ninth plans on cooperative basis; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As on 31.1.1995, there were 8 installed sugar factories in the State of Orissa.

(b) As per the licensing policy Guidelines for the sugar industry announced vide Press Note dated 8.11.1991, the things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to proposals from the Cooperative Sector and the Public Sector, in that order, as compared to the private sector.

(c) and (d) The proposals received from the Cooperative Sector for issue of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories will be considered by the Government in accordance with the prevailing licensing policy guidelines.

Licences for new Sugar Factories

2060. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to review the existing norms for granting licences for new sugar factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a more liberal policy will be adopted for cooperative sugar factories; and

(d) if so, the details of proposed changes in policy for proposed new sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The present policy of Licensing of Sugar Mills, including the option of delicensing, is under examination.

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

2061. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of buffer stock of foodgrains as on 31st March, 1993, 1994 and 1995;

(b) cost of operating these buffer stocks; and

(c) how Government propose to utilise higher buffer stock of foodgrains this year to keep the price line stable?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) The quantum of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in Central Pool as on 31.3.1993, 31.3.1994 and estimated stock position as on 31.3.1995 is as under:—

(In million tonnes)

As on	Wheat	Rice	Total
31.3.1993 (P)	2.74	9.93	12.67
31.3.1994 (P)	7.00	13.55	20.55
31.3.1995 (P)	8.58	18.55	27.13

(P)—Provisional

(b) The carrying cost of buffer stock for the year 1992-93 was Rs. 103.65 per quintal, Rs. 117.16 per quintal for the year 1993-94 and it is estimated at Rs. 108.62 per quintal for the year 1994-95.

(c) Apart from regular releases for Public Distribution System in order to keep the price line stable, the FCI is selling wheat and rice in the open market at prices below the FCI's Economic Cost. from Oct., 93 to March, 1994 a quantity of 2.70 million tonnes and for the period April 1994 to January, 1995 a quantity of 3.65 million tonnes of wheat and rice under the open sale scheme were sold in open market. Besides, wheat is being allotted to Modern Food Industries (I) Ltd. and its franchised units at a rate lower than the Central Issue Price